

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 CU-04 /084 W

-----280608Z 107453 /20

R 261405Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2084

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMCONSUL BELIZE

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 3796

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: CONTINUED FALLOUT FROM GUATEMALAN DECISION TO BREAK  
RELATIONS; STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AT GUATEMALAN EMBASSY

1. PANAMANIAN VICE-PRESIDENT GERARDO GONZALEZ, IN A MY 24 SPEECH TO A GATHERING OF GOP OFFICIALS HERE, EMPHASIZED THAT "PANAMA'S SUPPORT FOR BELIZE IN ITS STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE REFLECTS NOT ONLY THE CONCERN OF GENERAL TORRIJOS, BUT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT AND THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE". CRITICIZING THE POSITION OF GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD ON BELIZE AS "RISKY NATIONALISM", GONZALEZ IMPLIED THAT GUATEMALA'S REVANCHIST CLAIMS TO BELIZE WERE INTENDED TO DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE FROM HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, LOW WAGES, AND SHARP RISES IN THE PRICE OF BASIC FOODSTUFFS.

2. THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, ACCORDING  
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TO AN AP STORY, WILL NOT RESPOND FORMALLY TO MEXICO'S OFFER OF MEDIATION BETWEEN PANAMA AND GUATEMALA, "SINCE AT PRESENT THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR MEXICAN ASSISTANCE." ABSENCE OF A FORMAL RESPONSE WILL LEAVE THE OFFER OPEN SHOULD THE SITUATION IMPROVE.

3. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, LABOR MINISTER AHUMADA DENIED HAVING SAID THAT PANAMA WOULD GIVE BELIZE MILITARY SUPPORT IF NECESSARY. MEXICAN PRESS REPORTED THAT AHUMADA HAD MADE THE STATEMENT DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO MEXICO. AHUMADA SAYS HE TOLD MEXICAN JOURNALISTS THAT "PANAMA WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN BELIZE", REFERRING TO A SUGGESTION MADE BY PM PRICE DURING HIS RECENT VISIT HERE.

4. A GROUP OF ABOUT 100 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ESCORTED BY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN, STAGED AN ORDERLY DEMONSTRATION AT THE GUATEMALAN EMBASSY THIS MORNING.

GONZALEZ

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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22 May 2009  
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